

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8640

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNSC, PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS ADDRESSES SECURITY
COUNCIL AUGUST 12

REF: (A) 3213, (B) USUN 3214

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL MET AT 4:00 P.M. AUGUST 12
TO HEAR GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS WHO SPOKE FOR ABOUT
ONE-HALF HOUR. FOLLOWING BRIEF REPLY BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR
TURKMEN, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL NEXT MEETING ON AUGUST 13
AT 3:00 P.M. TO HEAR TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL.

2. FM BITSIOS SAID THAT GOG WANTED TO SC TO DENOUNCE
TURKEY'S EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN AND TO CALL
FOR THEIR CESSATION. HE CITED INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH REGARD TO
GOG POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS' TERRI-
TORIAL WATERS. BITSIOS REVIEWED GREECE'S ATTEMPTS TO BRING
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ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE AND TURKEY'S

CONTINUING REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. HE WARNED THAT THE DISPUTE COULD EASILY ESCALATE INTO A GRAVE CRISIS. TURKISH PERM REP TURKMEN REPLIED THAT IT WAS THE GREEKS WHO WERE PROVOCATIVE IN THAT IT WAS THEY WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO TURN THE AEGEAN INTO A GREEK LAKE. END SUMMARY.

3. GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS OPENED HIS STATEMENT BY NOTING THE GOG WAS BRINGING THIS ISSUE TO THE SC UNDER ARTICLE 35 OF UN CHARTER. HE DID NOT REQUEST THE SC TO DECIDE THE DISPUTE, WHICH IS UNDER ICJ CONSIDERATION, BUT FOR THE COUNCIL TO DENOUNCE THE GOT PROVOCATIONS AND CALL FOR THEIR CESSATION.

4. HE CHARGED THAT THE GOT HAD SENT SISMIK-I INTO GREEK-CLAIMED AREA OF AEGEAN SHELF ON AUGUST 6 WHILE THE QUESTION WAS UNDER DISCUSSION BY BOTH NATIONS. FONMIN REMINDED THE SC THAT INTERNATIONAL LAW QUARANTEES A NATION'S RIGHTS TO ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF, BUT IN THIS CASE TURKEY HAS DECIDED TO IGNORE THIS FACT FOR IT DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF A SHELF FOR THESE ISLANDS.

5. BITSIOS SAID THAT SINCE LATE 1973, WHEN GOT GRANTED THE TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY PERMITS FOR EXPLORATION IN THIS REGION, THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED TURKISH ENTRIES INTO THESE WATERS, SOMETIMES WITH NAVAL ESCORTS AND AIR FORCE PROTECTION. THIS WAS NOT A PROPER AND PEACEFUL METHOD TO INAUGURATE SUCH EXPLORATIONS.

6. THE GOG PROTESTED THESE ACTIVITIES ONLY TO HAVE THESE PROTESTS REJECTED BY THE GOT. BITSIOS QUOTED THE TURKISH POSITION THAT "THE UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL CONFIGURATION AND GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE AEGEAN ARE ACCEPTED FACTS".

7. BITSIOS CONTINUED BY REMARKING THAT AT THIS POINT, THE GOG IN A NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE BY PEACEFUL MEANS OFFERED TO BRING THE DISPUTE TO THE ICJ IN JAN 1975. WHILE THE GOT ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS THE GOT BY ITS DELAYING TACTICS SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN SETTLING THE DISPUTE.

8. BITSIOS SAID THAT IN THE MIDST OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SISMIK-I ENTERED THE DISPUTED ZONE. THE GOT WARNED AT THE OUTSET AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPAIR ITS MISSION, A MISSION THAT WAS OFFICIALLY AIMING AT THE DISCOVERY OF OIL DEPOSITS.

9. THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NEW VIOLATIONS ARE OCCURRING DAILY, THE TURKISH PM STATED ON TUESDAY THAT THESE EXPLORATIONS WILL CONTINUE AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED

IN SPITE OF ANY PROTEST FROM GREECE. THIS MUST BE STRESSED IN LIGHT OF THE NAVEL AND AIR FORCES CONCENTRATED IN THE AREA. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES A MERE ACCIDENT COULD CAUSE A GRAVE SITUATION.

10. ALTHOUGH THE GOG DOESN'T BELIEVE THE AREA IN WHICH THE SISMİK-I IS CONDUCTING ITS ACTIVITIES IS CONTESTED, EVEN IF ONE WERE TO ACCEPT THAT THE AREA IS CONTESTED, TURKEY WILL BE IN THE WRONG BECAUSE EVEN IN CONTESTED AREAS ONE IS NOT PERMITTED TO CREATE ACCOMPLISHED FACTS WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL ON.

11. GREECE FOR HER PART HAS NEVER ACTED PROVOCATIVELY AFTER THE EMERGENC OF DISPUTE. GREECE HAS OFFERED TURKEY MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PEACEFULLY SETTLE THE DISPUTE. HE CONCLUDED THAT SINCE TURKEY HAD REJECTED THE LAST OPPORTUNITY, TURKEY "SHOULD NOW HEAR FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT SHE MUST SUSPEND HER PROVOCATIVE ACTS. THE UNITED NATIONS WAS NOT IN TIME TO STOP THE TRAGEDY OF CYPRUS. IT CAN NOW PREVENT A NEW TRAGEDY IN THE AEGEAN."

12. EXERCISING HIS RIGHT OF REPLY, THE TURKISH PERM REP TURKMEN, REMARKED THAT HIS FONMIN WILL SPEAK TOMORROW, AND SAID THAT THE GOG WAS THE PROVOCATIVE PARTY IN THAT IT DESIRES TO MAKE THE AEGEAN A GREEK LAKE. HE STATED IT WAS THE GOG THAT HAD PLACED ITS MILITARY PERSONNEL ON AEGEAN ISLANDS AND IT WAS THE GOG WHICH HARASSED THE SISMİK-I. THIS HAS OCCURRED WHILE THE LIMITS OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS' CONTINENTAL SHELF IS UNDETERMINED AND IS THE OBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BOTH GOVERNMENTS. SCRANTON

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